Family of Christ Lutheran Church and Early Education Center

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY!

The Parable of the Talents

The 24th Sunday After Pentecost
November 15, 2020

Pastor's Greeting

Invocation: (*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*)

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 28:19b*

C: Amen.

Exhortation *Hebrews 10:22*

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

The Confession of Sins

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

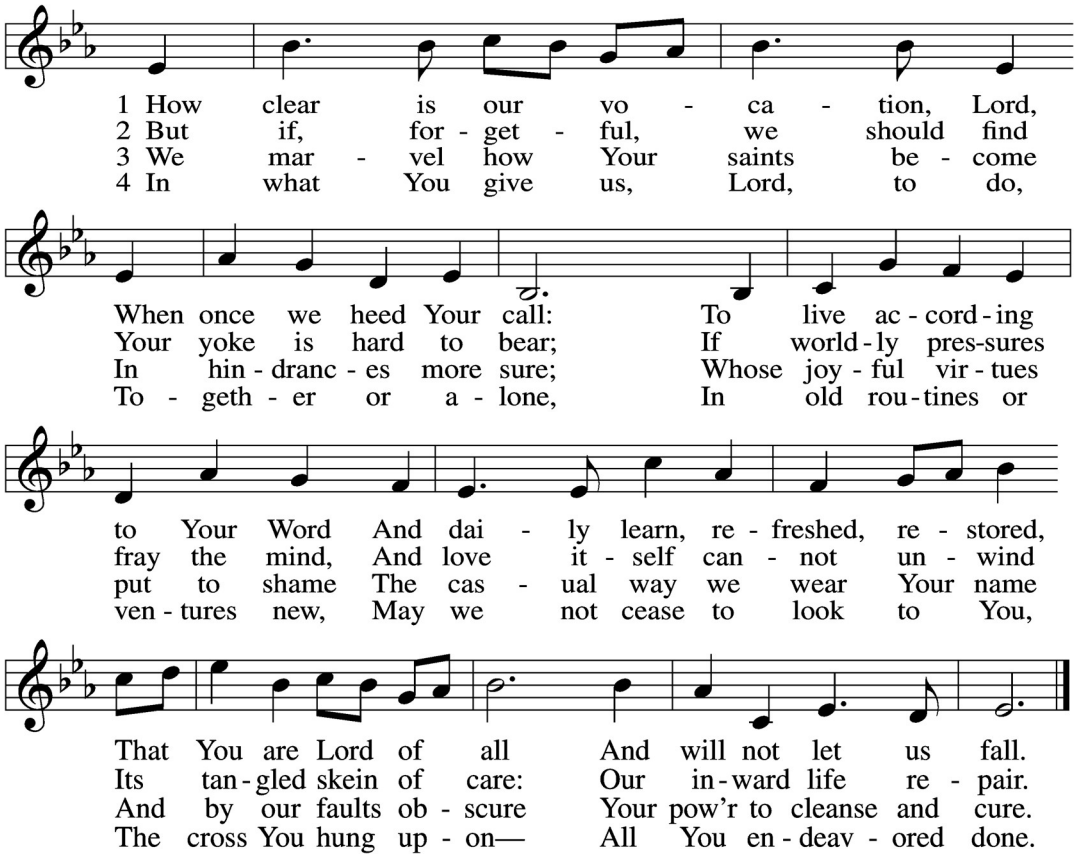
C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left

undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

ABSOLUTION *John 20:21*

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN HOW CLEAR IS OUR VOCATION, LORD *LSB 853 STS.1-4*

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INTROIT *Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1*

P: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

C: Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

P: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.

C: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.

P: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

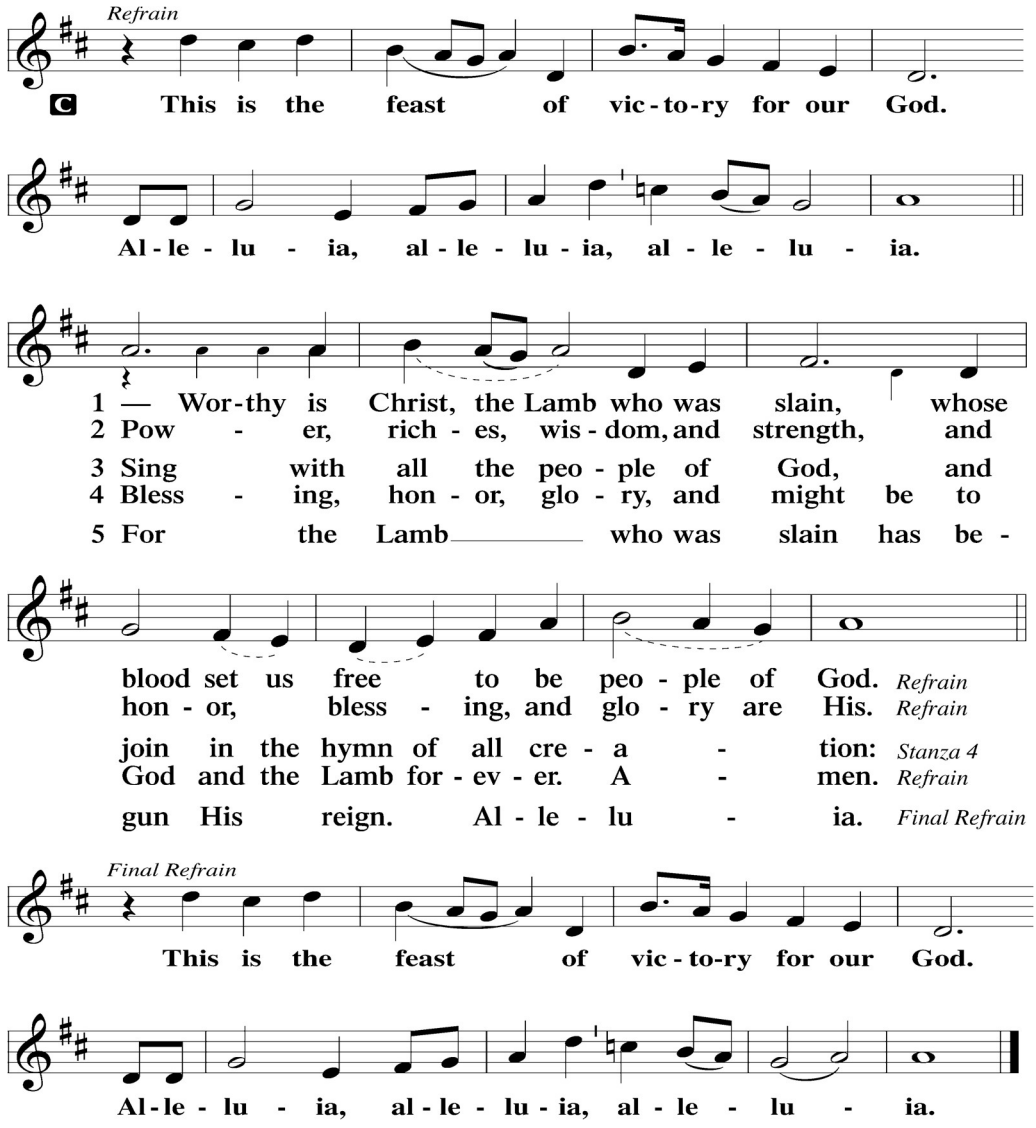
C: For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

THE KYRIE *LSB 186*

C: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

HYMN OF PRAISE: THIS IS THE FEAST *LSB 155* *Revelation 5:12-13; 19:5-9*



SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: *Let us pray*: Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ZEPHANIAH 1:7–16

Reader: Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated His guests. And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. "On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills.

Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will He do ill.'

Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

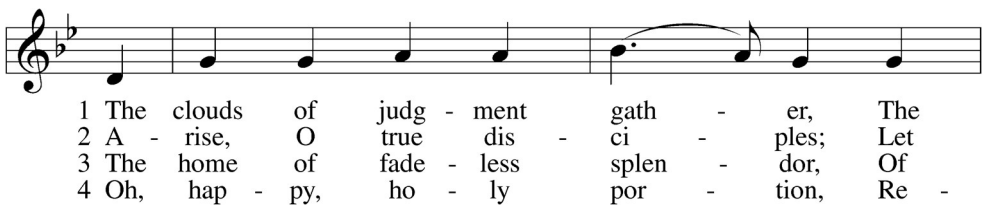
C: Thanks be to God!

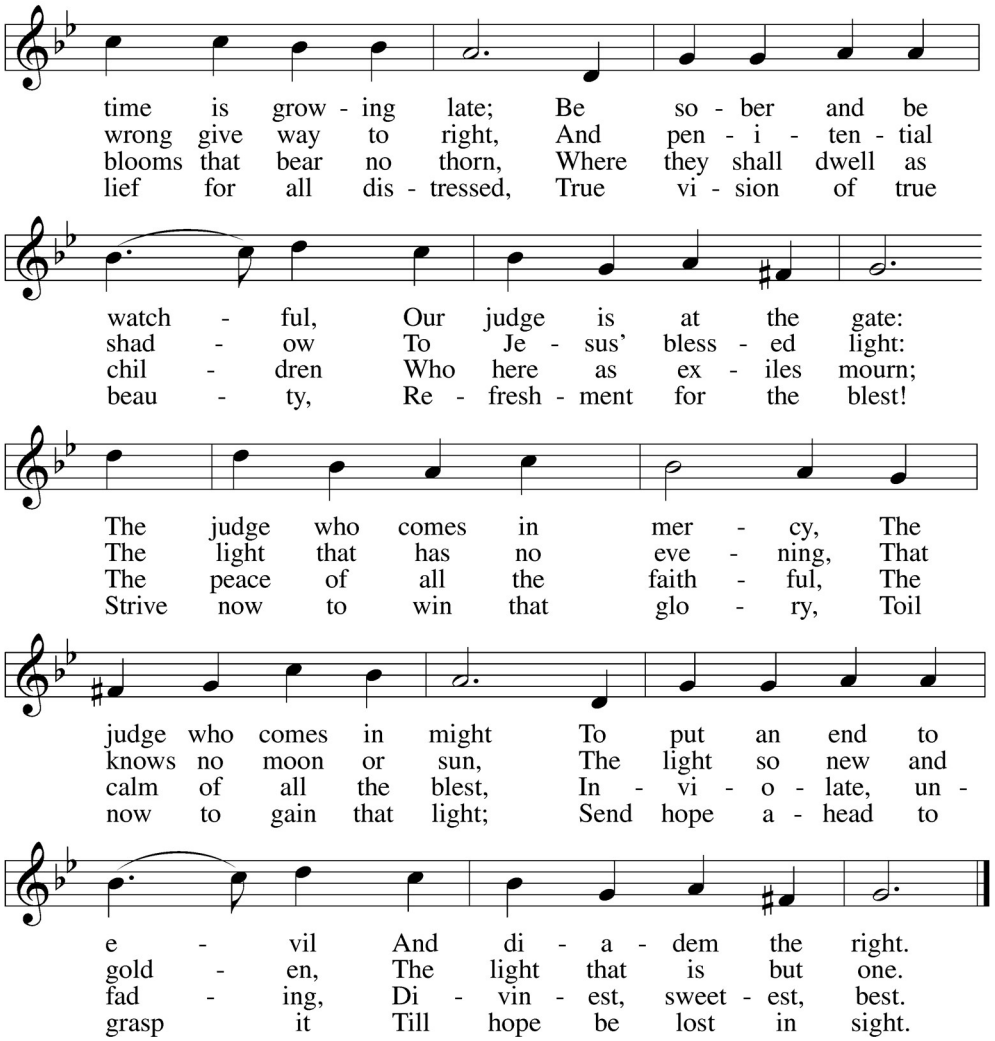
THE GRADUAL *Psalm 48:1a, 12–14a*

P: These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

C: Blessed are those whose strength is in You, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

HYMN THE CLOUDS OF JUDGMENT GATHER LSB 513 STS.1-4





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THE EPISTLE READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1–11

Reader: Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be God.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *LSB 156*

C: Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: The Reading of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 25:14–30

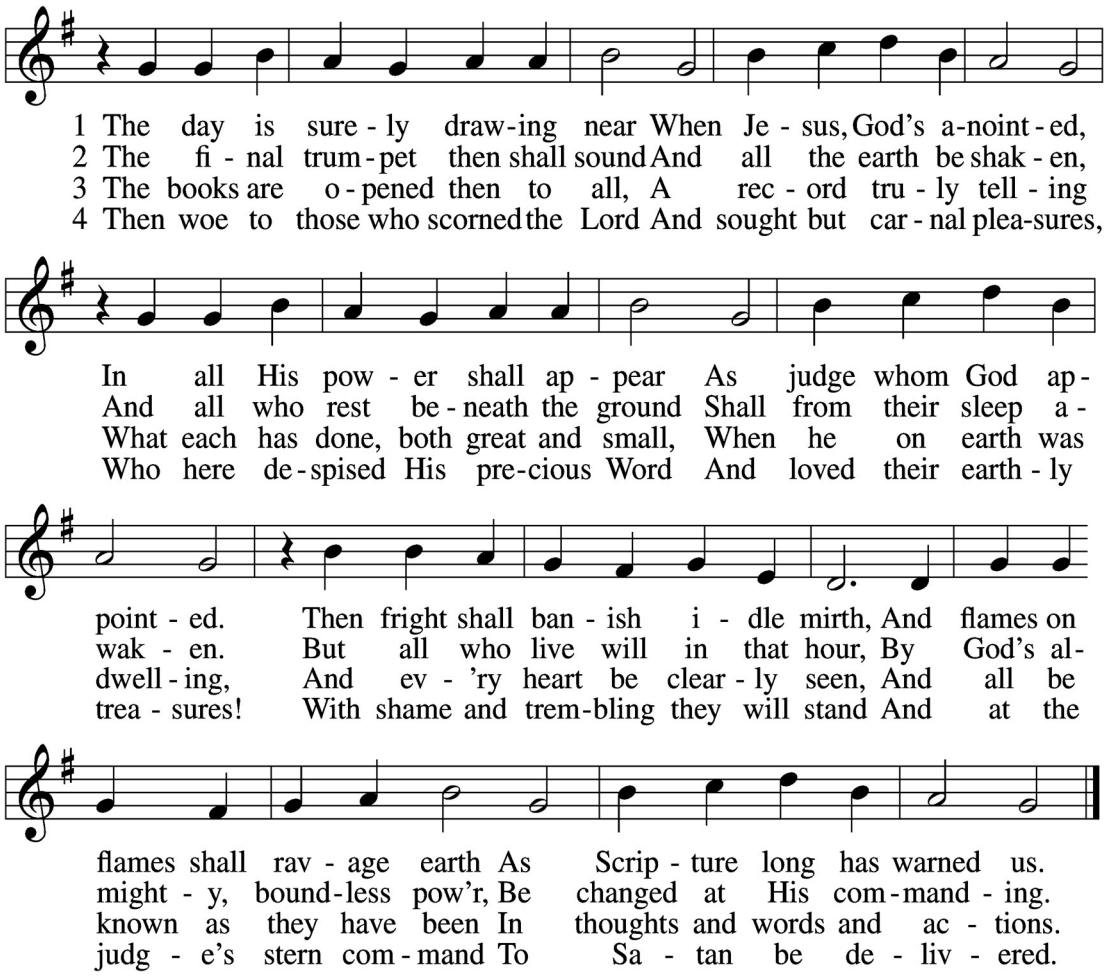
C: Glory to You O Lord!

P: [Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also, he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You O Christ!

SERMON HYMN THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR LSB 508 STS.1-4



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SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

C: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,

the only begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven

and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man;and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,

whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERTORY

As we celebrate the holy gifts and blessings God has given to us, please pray concerning your first fruits offering of thanksgiving to our Lord for all His benefits to us.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

(Prayer requests may be submitted online at www.FamilyofChristLutheranAZ.org or emailed to Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org or Prayer@familyofchristlutheranaz.org)

P: Almighty God, everlasting Father, You are worthy of being praised for all Your gifts and blessings which You have given to us, even though we are undeserving and unworthy people. Incline your ear to hear us this day as we cry to You for mercy toward all people as they have need.

You have made us Your people and preserved us through the ministry of Your Word and Sacraments. Continue to pour out upon us grace upon grace, that we may be kept in faith and guarded in hope. Unite Your Church throughout the world one in doctrine, confession, and life, and give to Your Church faithful pastors who will preach and teach Your Word with conviction. Deliver us from confusion and error by the power of Your Holy Spirit and raise up those who will continue to serve in faithfulness and humility. Deliver all enemies of Your Church and convert their hearts to repentance and faith. Strengthen all Christians in their faith and in their vocation of service as Your children, that we may be obedient to Your Word and receive the salvation of our souls.

Deliver the nations from oppression and ungodly rulers and governments. Bless all in authority within our own nation, that righteousness may flourish and injustice end. Bless all those places where Your people teach and learn, that our children may honor You, walk in Your commands, and show forth in their lives the fruits of the Spirit.

Prevent all disaster and calamity, deliver us from war and violence, and spare us from pestilence. Help us to know and rejoice in the good fruits of the earth, bless all noble occupations, and help the arts to flourish, that our lives may be enriched by beauty. Help us to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of the earth You supply for our common good.

Receive with our song of praise and sacrifice of thanksgiving the tithes and offerings we bring, that, through good use of the skills, talents and time You have given us, You may be glorified in all we are and do.

Give unity to Your people, that we may not be divided in doctrine or witness, and grant us grace, that we may come to the Lord's table and receive there the body and blood of our Lord Jesus in sincere repentance and faith.

Give to the sick healing, to the suffering relief, to the grieving hope and to the dying peace. Hear us especially on behalf of those who have requested our prayers, especially ***Gerri, Inge, Victoria, Debbie, Anita,*** _____

Sustain us in the day of trial, deliver us from all our enemies of body and soul, and keep us steadfast in the day of trouble.

Remembering that here we have no abiding city but the new heaven and the new earth is our home, give us Your aid so that we may by true faith and godly life prepare for the coming of our Savior, doing the works You have called us to do and accomplishing Your purpose in our daily lives. Help us to multiply Your mercy by loving our neighbor in need and loving You with all our body, soul, strength and will; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

P: Taught by our Savior we are bold to pray:

C: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

CLOSING COLLECT

P: Gracious Father, in mercy and love You sent Your beloved Son Jesus to die for our sins so we can receive the gift eternal of life. Lord, as we depart let Your Word reside in our hearts and guide our daily life. Thank you for gathering us in this place to be fed by Your Word and by Your Son's very Body and Blood. Let Your peace be upon our hearts embracing everything You have taught us so that we may bear the fruits of faith in our lives. Grant that the Light of Christ shine before us to the glory of Your Holy name; this we pray through Jesus Christ Your Son who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

All: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS *LSB 218*

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION *LSB 228*

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN **LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH** ***BOB #151***

Lord, I lift Your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I'm so glad You're in my life;
I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way.
From the earth to the cross my debt to pay;
From the cross to the grave,
From the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

(*REPEAT)*

Anyone desiring to contact Rev. Fred H. Gerlach may do so by **Cell Phone** at 609-751-2546, or by Email at Pastor@familyofchristlutheranaz.org.
You may also contact the Church at 480-759-4047.

Pastor is available upon request for:

- Individual Confession and Absolution.
- A home visit with the Pastor (if someone is ill or in the hospital, call to arrange a visit).
- For communion or a prayer.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study on the book of Leviticus, chapters 5 and 6, on Friday morning at 6:30 AM, available in person at the Church and also available via Zoom. Email Pastor for Zoom link.

Offerings can be mailed to the church or sent via Zelle® directly from your bank to:
familyofchristaz@gmail.com

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